

Pacific Pride

For the Families of Marines and Sailors of the Command Element



January 2002

Vol. 1

No. 1

Eleventh MEU families gather to celebrate the holiday season

Photos by Sgt. Brian L. Anderson



Families eat, talk and play with kids throughout the afternoon during the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Family Day held Dec. 15 at the 11th MEU Command Element building.



Check us
out online
@
www.11meu.usmc.mil

Cooking the day away, Staff Sgt. Robert W. Hall Jr., supply chief, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, cooks steaks, hamburgers and hotdogs for hungry attendees.

From the Commanding Officer



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to welcome all of our new Marines, Sailors

and their families to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Additionally, I would like to extend my thanks to those Marines and Sailors who will deploy with us again and to their families; I appreciate your continued commitment to the 11th MEU. As we near our deployment, I stay committed to providing the best training for our Marines and Sailors in addition to ensuring that our families are prepared for the challenges of having a loved one deployed.

During December, we had the opportunity to gather and meet with families at our Family Day. It was wonderful to see all the Marines, Sailors and their families together enjoying the activities, food and camaraderie. This was also a time to introduce our Key Volunteer Network, which is designed to support and assist families while we are deployed. If you are interested in becoming a Key Volunteer, please

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Left: Children receive small gifts from Santa during Family Day, hosted by 11th MEU Key Volunteers. More than 170 Marines, Sailors and family members attended the event.

Below: Major Matt R. Crabill, logistics officer, 11th MEU, carries his daughter following a tour of a Camp Pendleton fire truck. Santa rode in on the fire truck, surprising children with small gifts.



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take a look further into this newsletter for details.

Members of the 11th MEU also had the opportunity to take some time off during the holiday season. I hope that we all were able to reflect upon those things we each are personally thankful for in addition to spending valuable time with those we care about.

In the next couple of months, 11th MEU members will participate in several training evolutions to ensure that we are all prepared to meet the challenges that we may face during our deployment. Though this will be a very busy and hectic time for all, it is imperative that all training is conducted in such a way to ensure the safety of our members. You have my promise and commitment that we will address the safety of every Marine and Sailor before, during and after each training event. We will carry this focus on safety with us through our deployment.

As we approach the deployment, let's make sure we all work together, taking preventative measures to avoid problems while we are away. Please discuss things like finances, wills, powers of attorneys and enrollment in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS). Inaccurate or expired enrollment may result in refused or delayed medical or dental treatment.

In an effort to make sure we all

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Pre-Deployment Brief Scheduled

Just a quick note that the 11th MEU CE pre-deployment brief is scheduled for the evening of March 26 at the South Mesa SNCO Club, time to be determined.

This brief covers a variety of topics which can be helpful to you while your spouse is deployed. Spouses are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend with their Marines and Sailors.

Child care will be available at the club and coordinated through your Marine or Sailor's supervisor in the near future.

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Key Volunteer

Network Information

Families of Marines and Sailors can count on the Key Volunteer Network to assist them in meeting the challenges of military lifestyle. Everyone knows Marine Corps families have the **toughest** job in the Corps! The Key Volunteer Program exists in order to assist families by providing information, communication and support. The Corps recognizes the military spouses are bright, resourceful and capable individuals. We also realize no matter how many separations or deployments a family has managed, there will always be new challenges to meet.

Key Volunteers are spouses of members of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. We want Marines and Sailors to know that their families will have a reliable source to count on when they are in need of assistance. Key Volunteers are your primary point of contact. We work for you with the different elements of the command. By using your Volunteer Network, any problem you may encounter will be handled in a most professional manner.

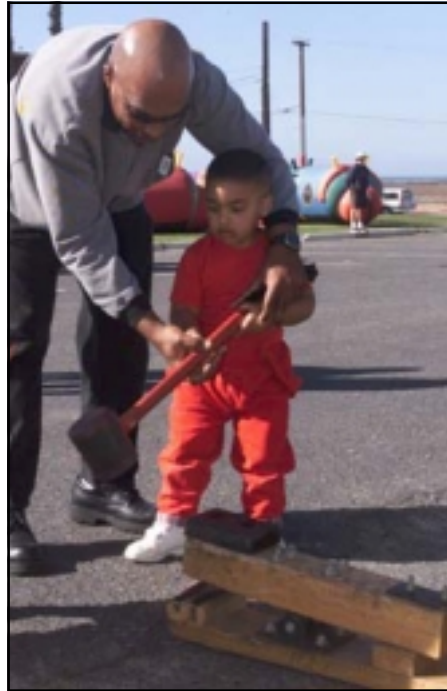
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PACIFIC PRIDE

The Pacific Pride is produced monthly for the families of Marines and Sailors serving with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

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GySgt D.E. Preston
Sgt B.J. Griffin
Kathy Patton
Judy Matkin



Staff Sgt. Andrew M. Phillips, equipment maintenance chief, 11th MEU, helps his son with a mallet used to test one's strength for fun.

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**11th MEU
 memorabilia
 is now available
 for sale!!!
 Contact Public
 Affairs for more
 info at
 763-3512**

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have the information needed to help make decisions on these important issues, we have scheduled a pre-deployment brief for the evening of 26 March. This will be a great opportunity for Marines, Sailors and their spouses to get together and receive vital information on some important subjects, such as how to contact your spouse in case of an emergency while they're deployed, why powers of attorney are important and what support networks are available for spouses and families.

In closing, I want to thank all spouses, family and friends for your continued support of your Marines and Sailors. It is my goal to keep you informed of our status and accomplishments during our workup exercises and during our deployment via this newsletter. I hope you look forward to each issue. For more MEU stories and accomplishments, visit our website at <http://www.11meu.usmc.mil>.

Colonel C.S. Patton
 Commanding Officer, 11th MEU